

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NEUCHATEL - QUARTERLY REPORT

DIVISION : QUALITY ASSURANCE + TECHNICAL SERVICES
SUBJECT TITLE : TOBACCO MONITORING
PERIOD COVERED : OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1988
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TOBACCO LOT ANALYSIS (TLA)

Assistance to the PM-EEMA Leaf Department

At the request of PM-EEMA Leaf Department, a fourth sample of reconstituted tobacco ex Podr Slatina, Jugoslavia, was submitted to TLA analysis. This sample was coded UZORAK IV. The complete results will be sent to the Leaf Department concerned.

Assistance to the PM-EEC Leaf Department

In the context of Project EEC, fifty-six (56) samples of tobacco from various origins (FR, IT, GR, DB, BE, PO) were sent to Onnens for TLA analyses. The scope of this project is to collect analytical data on the European tobacco types/qualities which are not bought by PME and maybe find some grades which might be suitable for PME blends.

Status: The analyses of these samples started at a rate of 3-4 samples per week.

Assistance to other R&D Services

At the request of R&D Research Department, sixty-three (63) Australian tobacco samples (strips) were cut to enable further determinations on cut rag, related to Project SATURNE.

Stem analyses for PME Affiliates

The TLA group is also providing assistance to the PME affiliates by preparing samples of non-treated flue-cured stems for TA, RS, N-NH₃ and N-NO₃ determinations. For 1988, 31 samples were

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received, prepared and the results of each individual sample sent to the Leaf Department concerned (FTR and PMG).

TLA LABORATORY PROCESSING CAPACITY IN 1988

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The target assigned to R&D for TLA in 1988 was to process 1000 samples during the year. As shown hereunder, and taking into consideration that the TLA processing was stopped for 2 months (March-April) due to the overhauling of the TLA cigarette maker and the move of the TLA group from Serrières to Onnens, this objective was recalculated "prorata temporis" and was met. In fact the new objective was set at 833 samples and during the 10 months of processing 873 samples were completed.

TLA SAMPLES THROUGHOUT 1988

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>		<u>PROCESSED</u>		<u>FINISHED</u>		<u>STOCK</u>
	<u>month</u>	<u>cumul</u>	<u>month</u>	<u>cumul</u>	<u>month</u>	<u>cumul</u>	
JAN	119	119	102	102	66	66	88
FEB	65	184	108	210	74	140	44
MAR	3	187	1	211	89	229	46
APR	0	187	0	211	25	254	46
MAY	162	349	53	264	0	254	154
JUN	161	510	75	339	42	296	241
JUL	103	613	84	423	96	392	255
AUG	175	788	133	556	87	479	297
SEP	62	850	89	642	119	598	267
OCT	91	941	63	705	46	644	294
NOV	182	1123	141	846	14	658	335
DEC	55	1178	27	873	103	761	363

In comparison with 1987, the number of samples in stock increased from 46 in April to 363 at the end of December but this was mainly due to the fact that numerous TLA analyses had to be made for special projects such as project BRAZIL (90 samples), project EEC (56 samples) etc, as well as the many standard samples received from the affiliates.

Attribution of TLA capacity

The attached charts show the break-down of the samples analysed in 1988 per affiliate and per tobacco type.

In the "per affiliate" distribution, significant trends were observed in comparison to 1987:

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- PME Leaf (from 5% to 12%)
- R&D - Others (from 1% to 6%)

In the "per tobacco type" distribution, we observed that in relation with the above-mentioned increases, the number of trial samples (mainly sent by PME-Leaf and R&D) increased from 1% in 1987 to 14% in 1988.

Processing capacity for 1989

No increase of the processing capacity is foreseen in 1989, and therefore it will remain at 1000 lots/year.

TOBACCO QUALITY AUDIT (TQA)

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The audit program consists of the physical analysis of offshore flue-cured and Burley tobacco strips for :

- strip size distribution
- stem content and size
- oven volatiles
- net tobacco weight

The objective is to provide the PME Leaf Buyers with the necessary information to identify tobacco processors in need of processing improvements by comparing the obtained audit results of the different tobacco processors per country and setting specifications for the audited parameters by trademark, tobacco type and origin.

Status

1987 Korean purchases have been audited and the audit report has been transmitted to the PME Leaf Department (14 flue-cured and 4 Burley samples).

1988 Brazilian purchases have been audited. The audit report will be transmitted to the PME Leaf Department (34 flue-cured and 5 Burley samples).

Follow-up

We will then audit the 1988 purchases of the following countries:

- Argentina
- Italy
- Mexico

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Filler analyses for PM departments

The TQA group is also providing assistance to other PM departments in preparing samples for filler analyses (TA, RS, N-NH₃, etc). This work is mainly done for RCB and ET produced in Onnens. Each month, the results are collected and a report is issued and sent to the persons concerned. For 1988, 526 samples were received, prepared and sent for analysis to the R&D Analytical Services and Smoking Lab Groups. This represents a 6% increase when compared with the number of samples received in 1987.

Assistance to the PM-EEC Leaf Department

In the context of Project FOX, five (5) samples of homogenized tobacco were analysed for size distribution. The results showed that 95 to 99% of the recon. strands were retained on the 1" X 1" screen. The complete results were transmitted to the persons concerned.

Assistance to other R&D Services

At the request of Mr. F. Lopes, determinations of the stem content of cut filler were carried out on two blends ex FTR: ML-022 and BR-001. The scope of this test was to determine the stem size distribution and relative percentages in cut filler samples taken at the exit of the garniture of a cigarette maker. The results together with the respective collected stems were given to the requester for further discussion with FTR production.

Assistance to PMG Engineering Department

Determinations of stems in cut filler were carried out on five (5) samples of blend ML-039 taken at the exit garniture of a PROTOS 100 cigarette maker. This test was requested by PMG-QA in relation with the Pre-Qualification trial of the new PROTOS 100. The results obtained were sent to the requester together with the respective stem samples.

Assistance to PM-Spain

Further to problems with the presence of expanded stems in cigarettes, all the tobacco strips in stock in Onnens (4 lots) were submitted to a stem content determination in order to check the percentage of objectionable stem and the total stem percentage in the strips sent by PM-Spain for expansion at Onnens plant. Five cases of each lot were selected and sampled according to TQA procedure. The results obtained are as follows :

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	<u>% 3/32"</u> (OBJ)	<u>% TOTAL STEMS</u>
PME standard	less than 0.25	less than 3.00
Lot 70250	1.19	4.98
Lot 70248	0.89	4.29
Lot 70249	0.75	4.07
Lot 70252	1.76	6.44

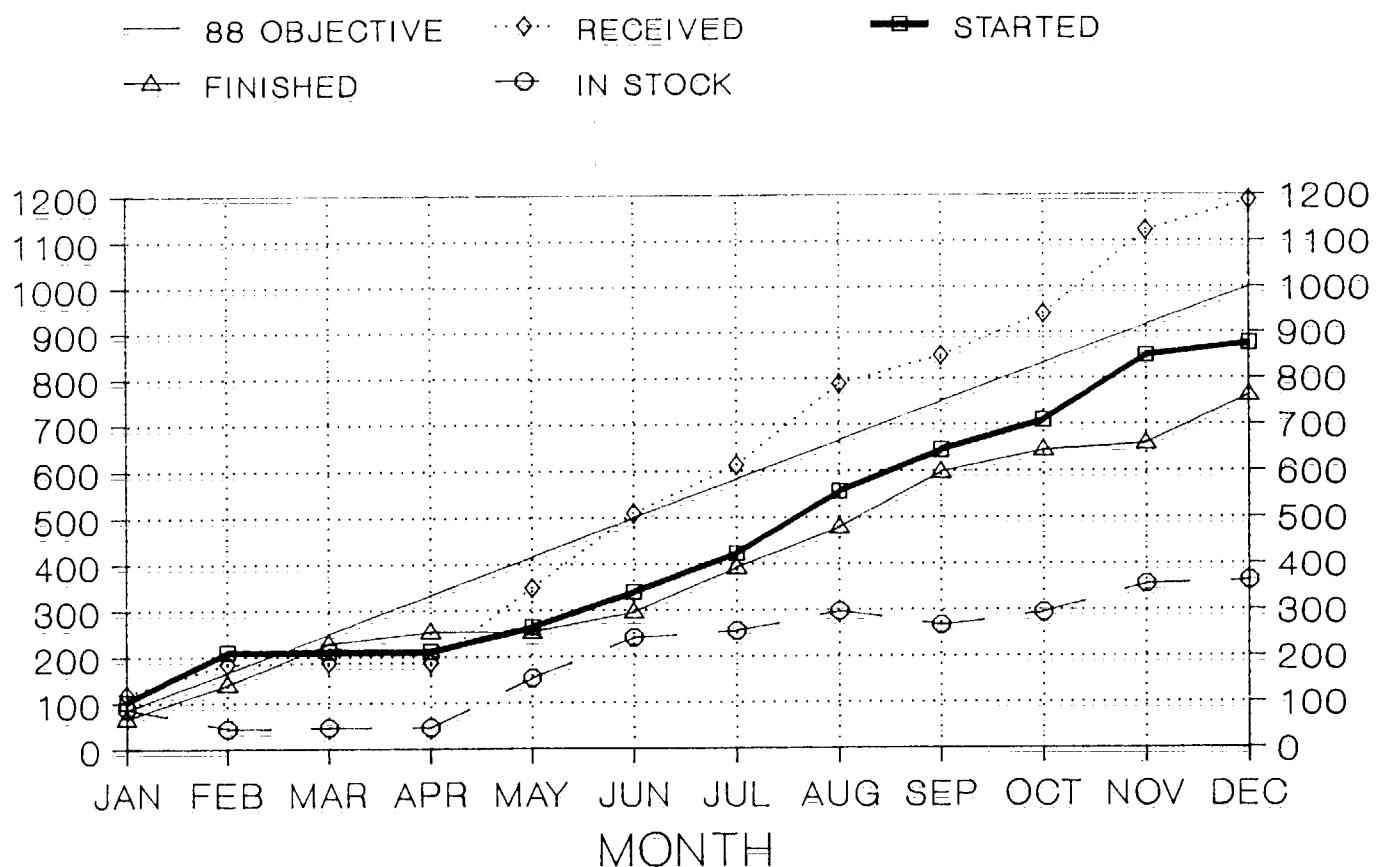
None of the four (4) lots we analysed met the PME specifications.
A report will be sent to PM-Spain.

Obligado

GUO/vep/January 12, 1989
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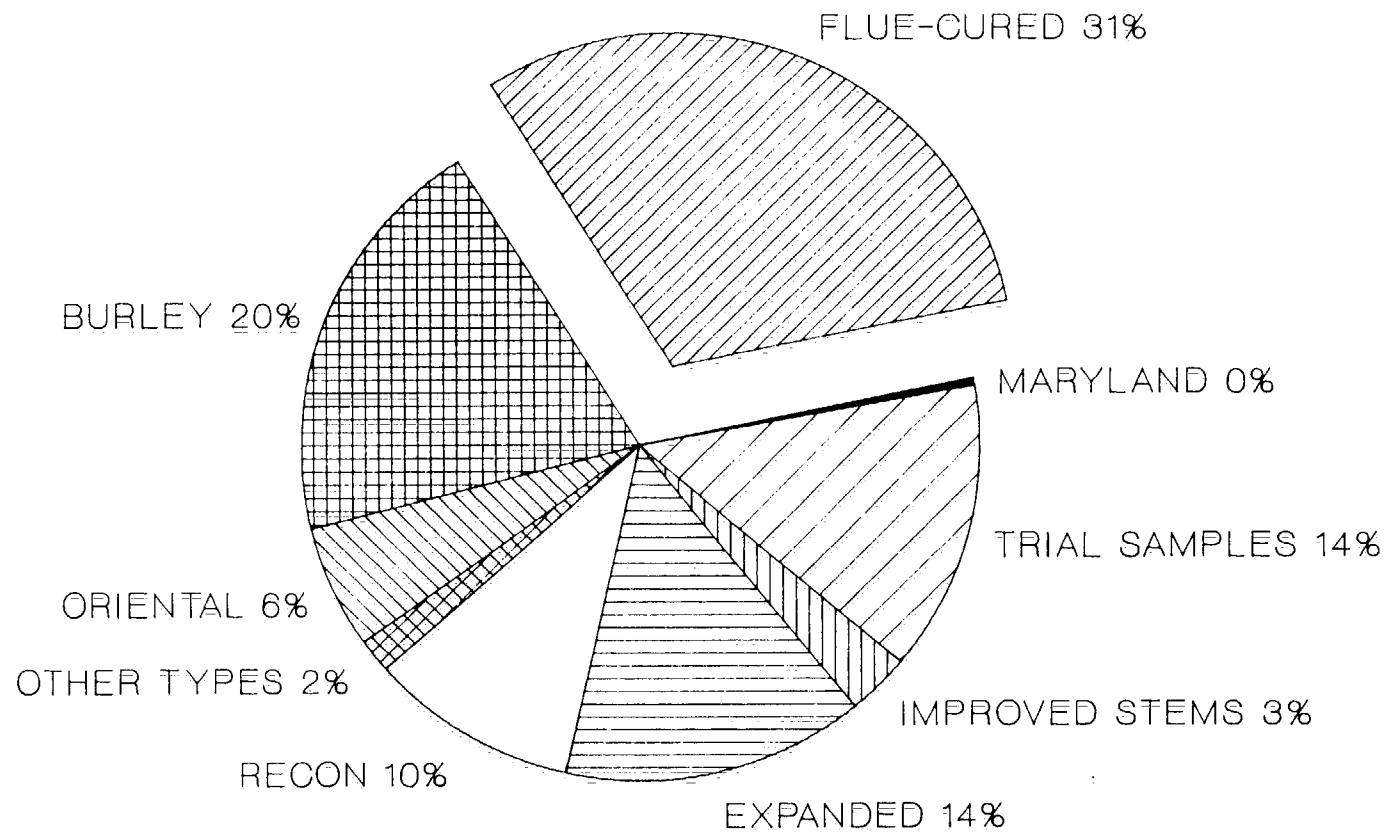
1988 TLA THROUGHPUT



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1988 TLA SAMPLE BREAKDOWN per tobacco type

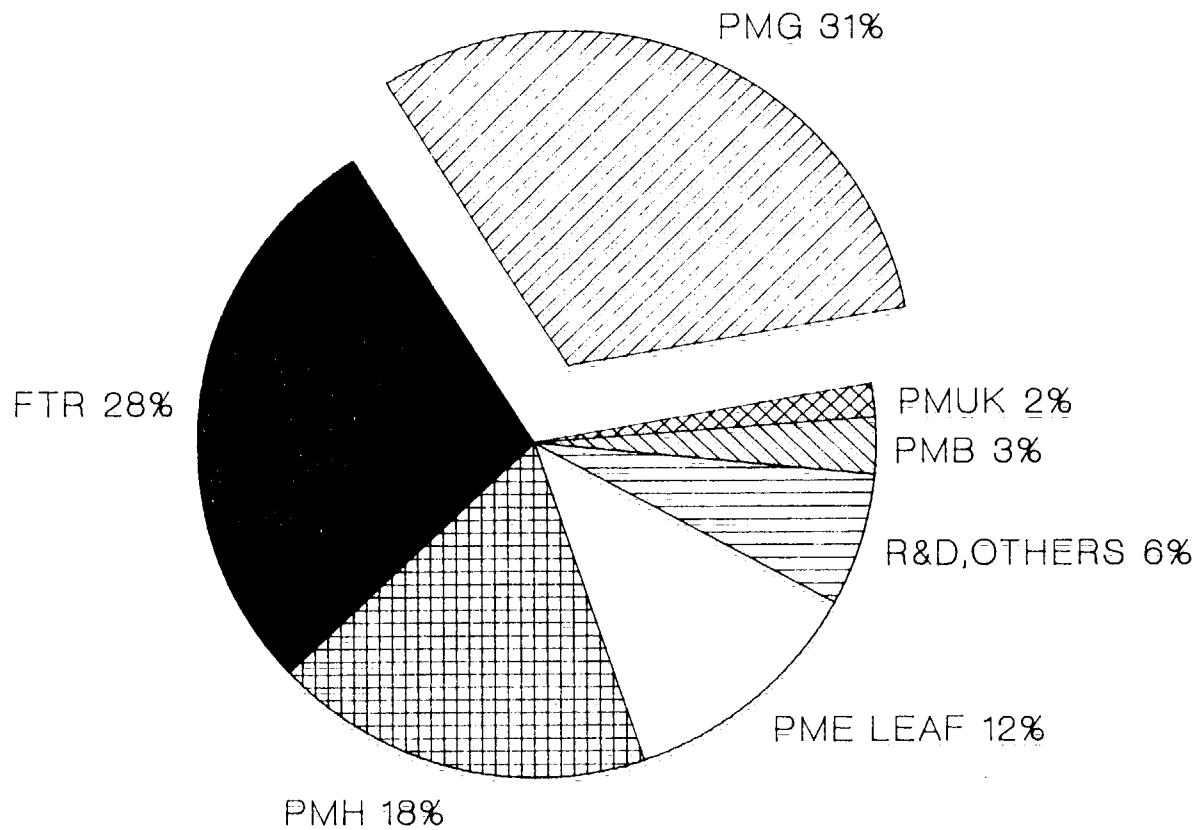


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1988 TLA SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

per requester



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